

#20

LATE
SUMMER
1993

40 BIG PAGES

THE
QUEEREST
HEROES OF
ALL!

SUPER GAY comics

\$2.95

Mature
Readers



GEORGE PEREZ!

JENNIFER CAMPER - MALACHY COWEY
SEAN DOAN - KURT ERICHSEN - J.A. FLUDD
JULIE FRANKI - ROBERTA GREGORY - JOAN KILTY
ANDY MANGELS - STEPHEN LOWTHER
CHEELA SMITH - HOWARD STANGROOM

AFTER G.K./D.C.

FROM THE EDITOR

No more secret identities; with this issue of *Gay Comics*, the heroes and heroines fly out of the closet!

Welcome to our second "Super-Hero" theme issue of *Gay Comics*, (our first was #8) which should be out right in the middle of an explosion of super-hero universes from every comic company under the sun.

But in the midst of Ultraverses and Comics Greatest Worldverses and Defiantverses and Imageverses and Valiantverses and . . . Where are the gay and lesbian heroes? Even if we've been relegated to 1% by the latest poorly-trained researchers, there should be at least one or two gay/lesbian heroes. Why is it that the most corporate comic company (DC) has more gay characters than any other company? Does the renewed artistic creativity in creator ownership really mean "heterosexuals-only" creativity?

America's comic book awards, voted on by industry professionals, are the Harveys and the Eisners. This year, **P. Craig Russell**, **Roberta Gregory**, and **Eric Shanower**, all openly gay creators, were nominated for several Eisner awards, but only Russell received a Harvey nomination. Meanwhile, books by other openly gay/lesbian/bisexual/unannounced creators, such as *Gay Comics*, **Ivan Velez's** *Tales of the Closet*, **Tim Barela's** *Leonard & Larry*, **Angela Bocage's** *Real Girl*, or **Donna Barr's** *Desert Peach*, did not receive any nominations.

The Eisners sent a nice letter which stated "Even though the judges had many good things to say about your entries, especially *Gay Comix/Gay Comics*, none made the final cutoff in any of the categories." They encouraged us to submit again next year.

You can bet that I *will*.

There are some people who could suggest that the lack of award nominations -- recognition -- was an example of discrimination or homophobia, but there's no evidence to support that theory. Even if two of the above nominees were *Gay Comics* contributors.

What is clear is *this*: We're not getting the word out. If companies and creators are told by the fans -- *you* -- that they want more gay and lesbian characters, they will put them in. If more of you write in to *Comics Buyers Guide*, *Wizard*, or other magazines, extolling the virtues of *Gay Comics* or

comics by gay creators, the fans, retailers, and professionals will begin to notice us more.

The **March on Washington** and countless surveys have shown that our community is a force to be reckoned with; financially, politically, emotionally, spiritually, etc. We may be a small portion of the population, but that doesn't mean we can't be heard.

Make them hear you. Don't be ignored. Let your retailer know you want him to support books like this. Suggest it to your friends, vote for it in the CBG awards. Raise your voices, write your letters, lobby the conventions.

Maybe *then* they'll put our heroes in their universes. Maybe *then* they'll remember us next year when it comes time to fill out their award ballots. Maybe *then* we'll be that many steps closer to fairness and equality.

And aren't the concepts of fairness and equality two things that real super-heroes are supposed to represent?

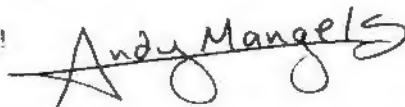
Besides the three comic award nominees, congratulations are due to *Gay Comix* founder **Howard Cruse**, and his partner, **Ed Sedarbaum**. The two were jointly awarded the \$25,000 no-strings-attached **Stonewall Award**, for their long-time work on behalf of the Gay and Lesbian community! Howard's busily working away on his DC/Pirahna graphic novel, while Ed works to sensitize police to gay/lesbian issues. Well deserved, guys!

Our next two issues will have some big-time surprises. They're being prepared concurrently, so the issue numbers may flip-flop. *Gay Comics* #21 will be a two-part special issue. **P. Craig Russell** and **David Sexton** will represent "The Legend Of Apollo and Hyacinth," and **Roberta Gregory** will give us an extended "Bitchy Butch" story.

Gay Comics #22 will be our "Anthropomorphic/Funny Animal" issue. We're leading off with an *Omaha, The Cat Dancer* cross-over story by **Reed Waller** and **Kate Worley**, and following it with stories by **Joan Hilty**, **Michael Goldberg**, **Leanne Franson**, **Howard Stangroom**, **Stephen Lowther**, **J.D. March**, **Kris Kovick**, and many others!

Spread the word. *Gay Comics* isn't giving up. We're getting *better*!

Keep Loving!



GAY COMICS #20: Fall 1993
edited by Andy Mangels

FRONT COVER "The Queerest Heroes Of Them All!"

by J.A. Fludd and George Pérez
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by Gil Kane and Dave Cockrum

Inside Cover Editorial by Andy Mangels

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BACK COVER "Gravity Babe and Cerebral Girl" by Julie Franki

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Please state that you are over 18

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Design by Andy Mangels Productions

WILD NIGHT*

Joan
Hilty
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THE PRETTY POOR EXCUSE FOR AN ORIGIN STORY OF **IMMOLO**



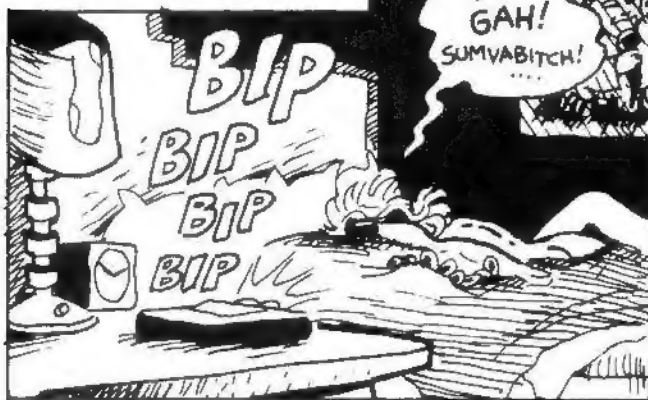
*THE MARTHA REEVES VERSION, NATCH--FROM THE THELMA & LOUISE SOUNDTRAK







FOUR HOURS (AND FORTY MINUTES OF ACTUAL SLEEP) LATER...



Z
GAH!
SUMVABITCH!

EXCUSE TH' HOUR,
DEEBB, BUT THERE'S
A PAIR O' KILLER
DROIDS AT BROADWAY
AND FIFTH...

(MOAN)
ON MAH WAY,
DISPATCH.



WOW! I'VE NEVER BEEN
IN A REAL BATTLE!
CAN I COME?

NO
WAY,

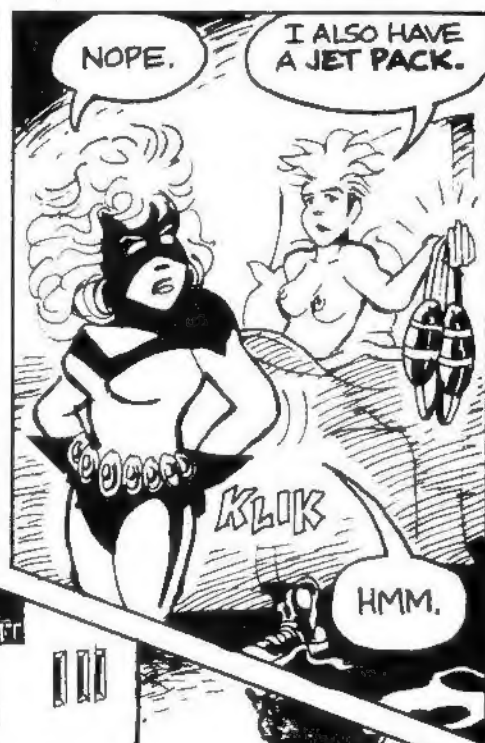


BUT I'VE
GOT A
COSTUME!

UNDERSTAND, AH
DON'T USUALLY
RISK A GIRL'S
LIFE ON THE
FIRST DATE...

NOPE.

I ALSO HAVE
A JET PACK.



HMM.



HEY, IF
I'D WANTED
A DESK JOB,
I'D HAVE GONE
BACK TO
COLLEGE.

RATATATATAT



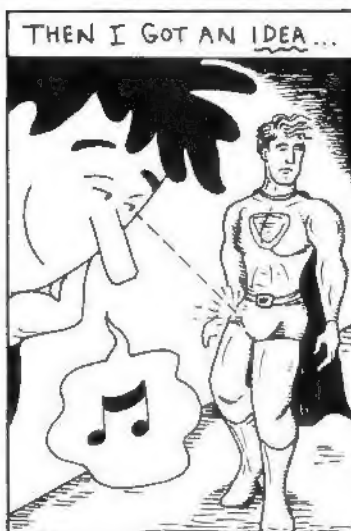
IMMOLOA ACTS OUT REGULARLY IN OH, A WOMEN'S COMIC QUARTERLY OF INSPIRED ELOQUENCE, AVAILABLE FROM: OH, P.O. BOX 41030, 5134 CORDOVA BAY ROAD, VICTORIA B.C., V8Y 2K0, CANADA. SAMPLE 15H \$3.95/CAN\$4.95, SUBSCRIPTION \$15/CAN\$18. GIT IT.

MEN IN TIGHTS © '93 by ROBERT KIRBY

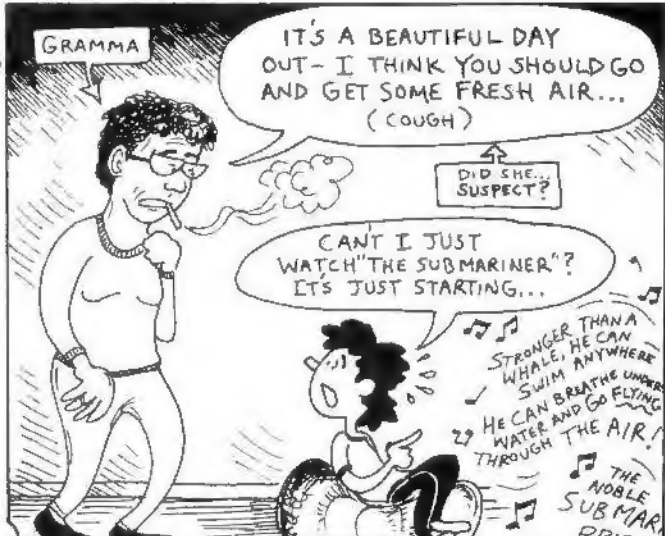
WHEN I WAS ASKED TO DO SOMETHING FOR THIS COMIC.....



I HAD TROUBLE FIGURING OUT AN "ANGLE"...



LET'S TRAVEL DOWN MEMORY LANE FOR A MOMENT HERE.



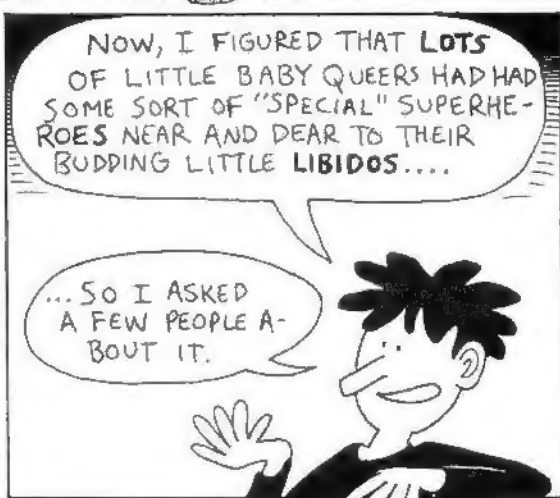
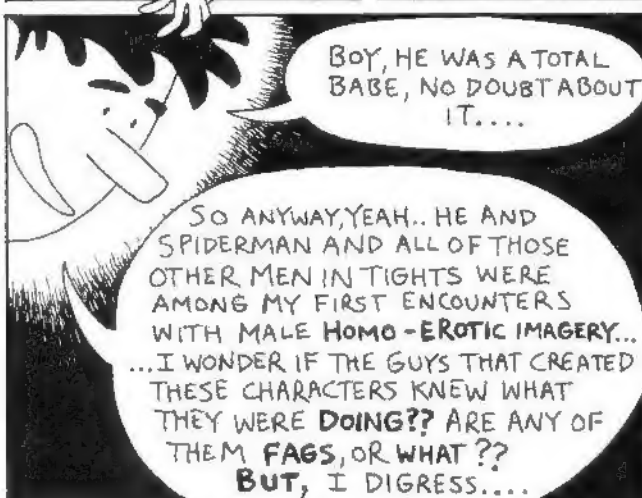
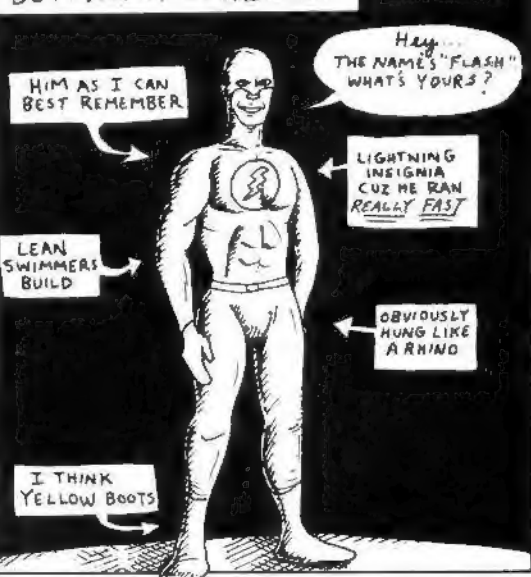
YEAH, I DID LIKE SUPER-HEROES BACK THEN, DIDN'T I?... OH GOD, ESPECIALLY THE **FLASH**, REMEMBER HIM? I HAD A COUPLE OF HIS COMIC BOOKS ONCE.....



..BEING SO YOUNG, I DIDN'T QUITE REALIZE JUST WHAT IT WAS THAT I FOUND SO INTERESTING ABOUT THIS FLASH FELLOW...



BUT NOW OF COURSE....



CHRISTOPHER

OH I LIKED WONDER WOMAN...

REALLY....WHAT EX-
ACTLY DID YOU LIKE
ABOUT HER?

UM. I IDENT-
TIFIED WITH
HER

? IDENTIFIED WITH
HER?

WELL, WITH
HER COSTUME

OH

?

ANTHONY

NO... I THOUGHT THE BOY
HEROES WERE SORT OF BORING
I LIKED ELECTRA WOMAN AND
DYNA GIRL - REMEMBER THAT
SHOW ?? I LIKED WONDER WO-
MAN... OH, AND ISIS TOO!
ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE TWIRLED
AROUND....

MAYBE I'M
JUST SHALLOW
MAYBE
I'M JUST SEX-
UALLY OB-
SESSED

MY FRIEND JEFFERY EVEN TOLD ME THAT
WHEN HE WAS LITTLE, HE MADE HIS OWN
WONDER WOMAN POWER BRACELETS TO
WEAR!

SEE, THEY WERE WHAT SHE
USED TO WARD OFF BULLETS..

OH, UH
HUH

I THINK I
MIGHT'VE STUMBLED
ONTO SOME LONG-
LOST GAY-BOY CULT
OR SOMETHING

WELL ANYWAY, MY BOYFRIEND TOLD
ME THAT HE WOULD'VE LOVED TO HAVE
FOOLED AROUND WITH THE HUMAN
TORCH, SO THAT DID SALVAGE MY
PRURIENT THESIS SOMEWHAT...

YEAH...

HE WAS
HOT!
(Sorry - no pun
intended)

...BUT ONE THING THAT CAN NEVER
BE UNDER-ESTIMATED IS THE GAY
MAN'S ADMIRATION / IDENTIFICATION
WITH.... THE DIVA!

RIGHT W.W?

(?)
I GUESS SO....
WELL, EXCUSE ME,
BUT I'VE GOT SOME
ASS TO GO KICK

LATER...

END

IRONWOMAN Adventures in Employment

CAMP

BEING A SUPERHERO IS A LOT OF FUN. I LIKE RIPPING STUPID MEN INTO SHREDS



I LIKE SNATCHING BEAUTIFUL WOMEN FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH.



AND I'M GOOD AT IT.

BUT ALL THAT GLORY DON'T MEAN SHIT WHEN THE BILLS COME.



I GOTTA GET A JOB THAT PAYS CASH!!



O.K.. MS... UH... WOMAN WHAT SKILLS DO YOU HAVE?

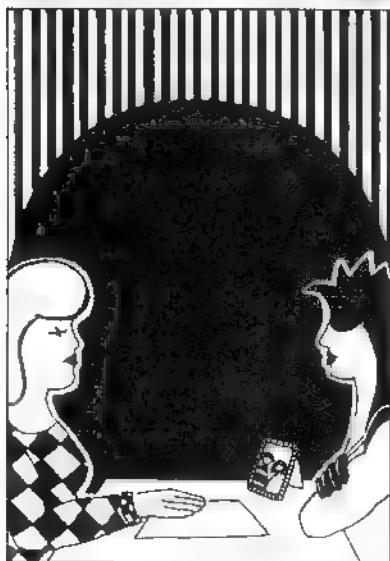
I CAN FIGHT OFF ENTIRE GALAXIES SINGLE HANDEDLY, TRAVEL THROUGH TIME, TURN INVISIBLE AND... OH, YEAH, I CAN FLY. BASICALLY, I SEEK AND DESTROY EVIL.

EMPLOYMENT OFFICE



CRIME PREVENTION, HUH? WELL, TO JOIN THE POLICE FORCE YOU MUST BE UNDER 35, AND IT SAYS HERE THAT YOU'RE FORTY...

OH...



CAN YOU TYPE?

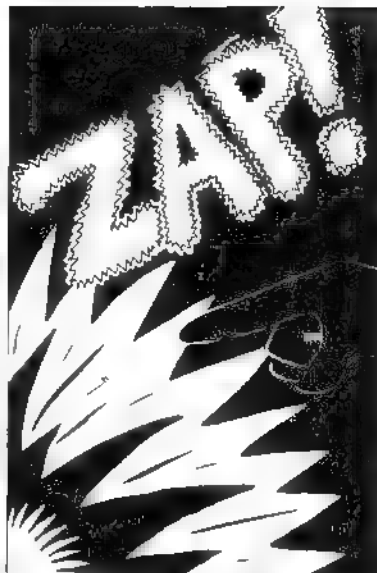


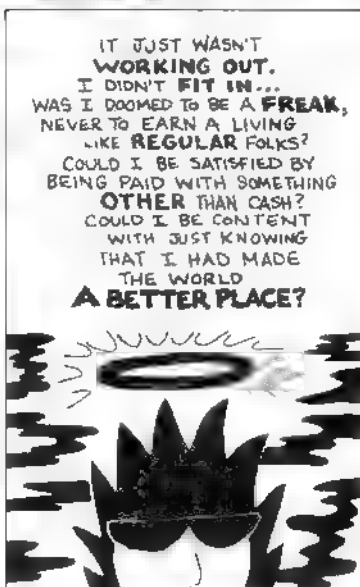
SO, I GOT THIS JOB AS A WAITRESS.

WHAT'LL IT BE, BOYS?

MENU

GIMME A BURGER AND SOME FRIES... AND COFFEE...

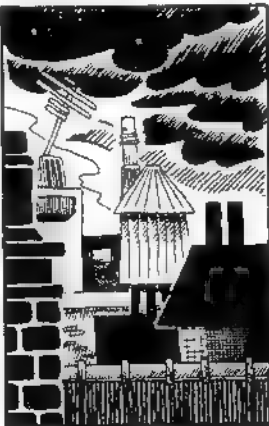




MAJOR POWER

and SPUNKY

THERE ARE OVER TEN MILLION STORIES TO BE TOLD FROM THE HEART OF THE NAKED CITY.....



WE HOPE YOU'LL FIND OURS JUST SAUCY ENOUGH TO BE TOLD.



GEE! THE THINGS A GUY HAS TO DO TO READ HIS COMICS IN PEACE!



MMMMFFF!



HOLEY MOLEY! IS THIS A PUBLIC HAIR? WHAT HAVE I TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT!



GENN!

WACK!

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT AND I'VE DECIDED WE'RE GOING TO BECOME COSTUMED VIGILANTES, THE FICTION IS ABOUT TO BECOME FACT! WE'RE GOING TO RUN ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE, RACE WITH THE NIGHT... E.R. WHATEVER THAT MEANS!



COURSE, WE'LL NEED COSTUMES: SKIN-TIGHT BODY HUGGING KINKY COSTUMES WITH BULGES IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES! AND A SECRET ORIGIN, WE'LL BOTH NEED ONE OF THOSE!!



HOIST!

OOOOPHHTH!

"LET'S SEE... YES YOU BECOME A SUPERFIT PERFECT SPECIMEN AS A RESULT OF A ONE SHOT MILITARY EXPERIMENT TO CREATE A SUPER SOLDIER."

AMAZING! WHAT A BODY!
IT'S A MIRACLE! THE
CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT
OF A BRILLIANT
SCIENTIST'S LIFE!

WHAT PERFECTLY ROUND
SMOOTH BUTTOCKS, FIRM
BUT ALMOST BOYISH!

AND HE'S HUNG
LIKE A DONKEY
TO BOOT!

"WHILST I AM THE PRODUCT
OF A LIFETIME'S DISCIPLINE,
UNSELFISHLY DEVOTING MYSELF
TO A DAILY REGIME OF
HARSH EXERCISES DEVISED
TO PRODUCE A TAUT, LEAN
FIGHTING MACHINE."

BUT WHAT TO CALL
OURSELVES EH? WHAT NAMES
COULD STRIKE TERROR INTO
THE HEARTS OF VILLAINS
EVERYWHERE? WHAT STERN,
BUT FAIR TITLES SHOULD
WE BESTOW UPON
OURSELVES?

UNF?

GOT IT!
BY COLLY,
I'VE GOT IT!

"YOU ...YOU SHALL BE
MAJOR POWER, NEMESIS
OF THE UNRULY....."

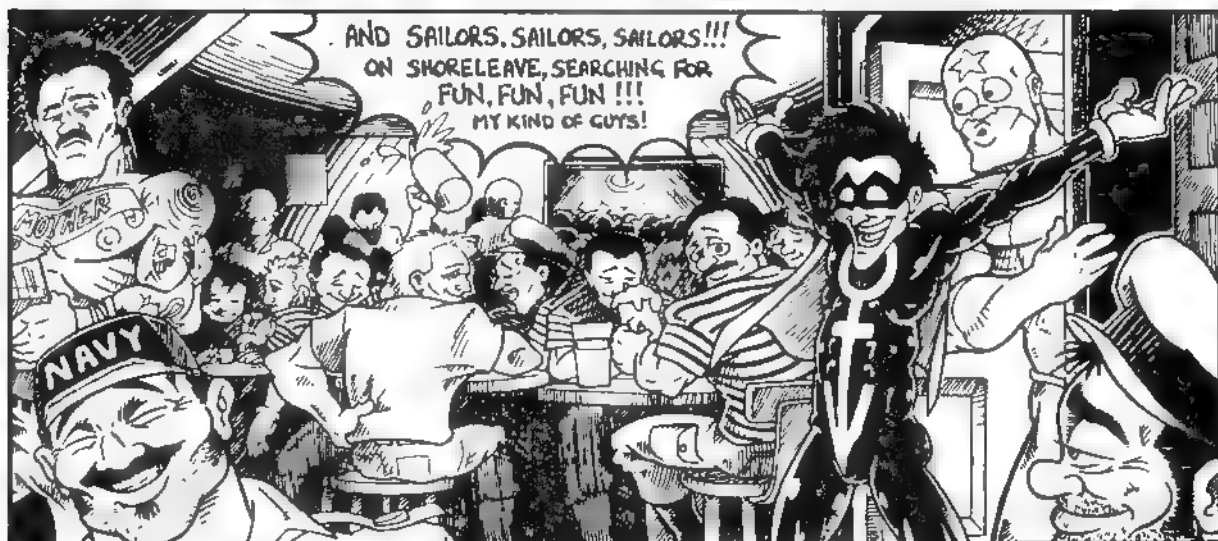
"WHILST I SHALL BE YOUR
FAITHFUL SIDERICK SPUNKY.
LOYAL TO A FAULT
AND SEXIER THAN A
VERITABLE SEX GOD!"

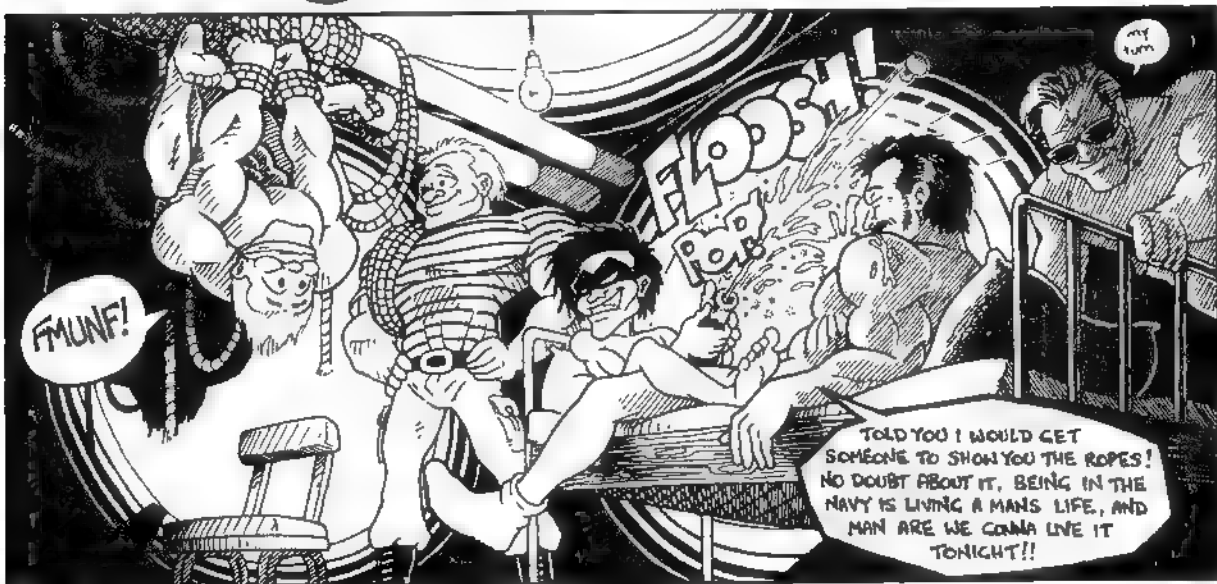
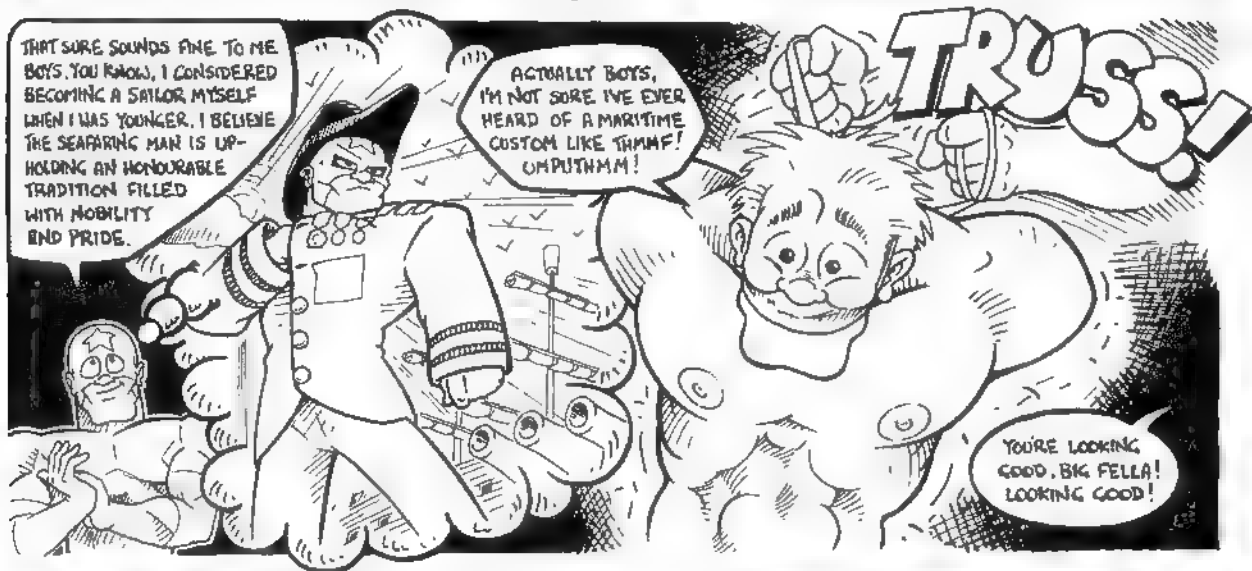
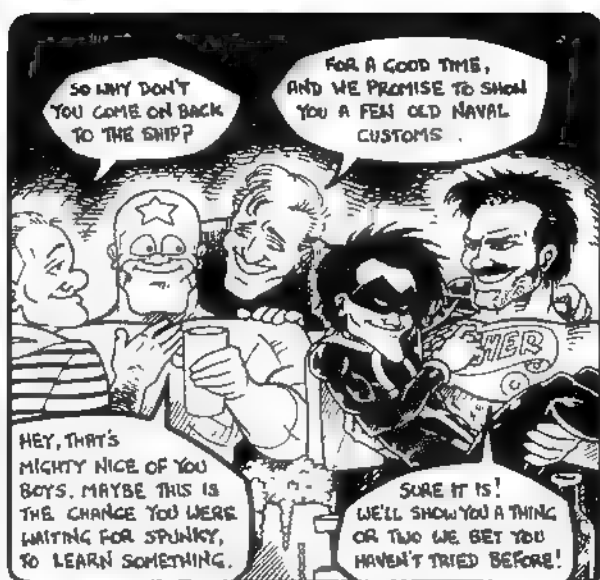
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SMOOTH IDEA EH? WELL
SAY SOMETHING, I WOULDN'T
WANT YOU TO THINK YOU HAD
NO INPUT, IT'S QUITE
A STEP WE'RE ABOUT
TO TAKE!

ACTUALLY, LIFE ON THE
RAZOR'S EDGE SOUNDS FINE.
AND DANDY, RISKING LIFE AND LIMB
ON PRECARIOUS ROOFTOPS OR IN
DARKENED ALLEYWAYS SOUNDS
- HUNKY DORY....

IT'S THESE QUIET NIGHTS
IN THAT ARE GOING TO
BE THE DEATH OF ME!

FFNNRR!







WELL, HERE WE GO
LITTLE BUDDY. TWO BAGS
CHOKER BLOCKED WITH
HIGH FIBRE PROTEIN AS
BEFITS TWO GROWING
SUPER - HUH?!

HOLEY MOLEY
WE'VE BEEN
ROBBED!

DEEPERS, WORSE YET,
MY PARTNER HAS BEEN
KIDNAPPED BY ELECTRIC
CITY'S MOST NOTORIOUS
LATEX CLAD, S & M
LOVING TERRORISTS!

Dear Mr. X
WE KNOW A SECRET
UNLESS YOU BREAK INTO
HUMINGBIRD ERECTIONS
RECORD OFFICES AND
OR NO US THEIR BUSINESS
LEADERS YOU - I NEVER
SEE YOUR CUTE PARTNER AGAIN
THE RUBBER LOVERS
PS DON'T PUT NAME US WITH US
WE ARE ALL HE "STARS"



" WHEREVER HE IS
HE'S BOUND TO BE
IN TROUBLE ..."

OH WE HAVE
SUCH SIGHTS TO
SHOW YOU.

SNAZZER!
FRAZZER!
RASSIN!



YOU ARE
OUR PRISONER
OF LOVE.

AND IF IT HURTS,
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE
WE LOVE YOU.

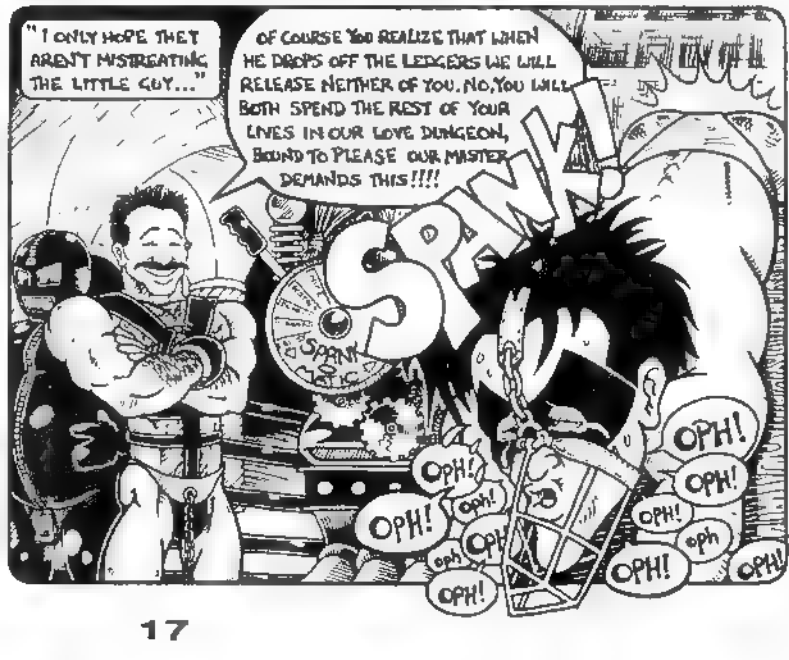


WHO WAS THAT MASKED
GUY THAT JUST RANSACKED
THE OFFICES? AND DID
YOU SEE HOW TIGHT
THAT COOL OUTFIT
OF HIS IS?

TIGHT?
FLIP ME, HIS TRUNKS
WERE SO TIGHT YOU
COULD TELL WHAT RELIGION
HE WASN'T!!



GOSH, WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT.
MR. MAJOR POWER, RANSACKING
THE OFFICES OF ELECTRIC
CITY'S BIGGEST CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY. NO RISK IS TOO
GREAT FOR MY BEST PAL....

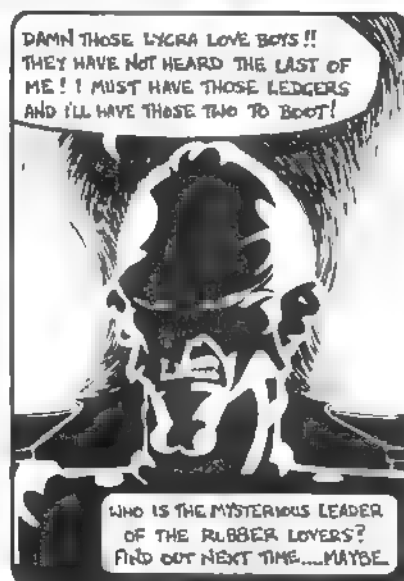
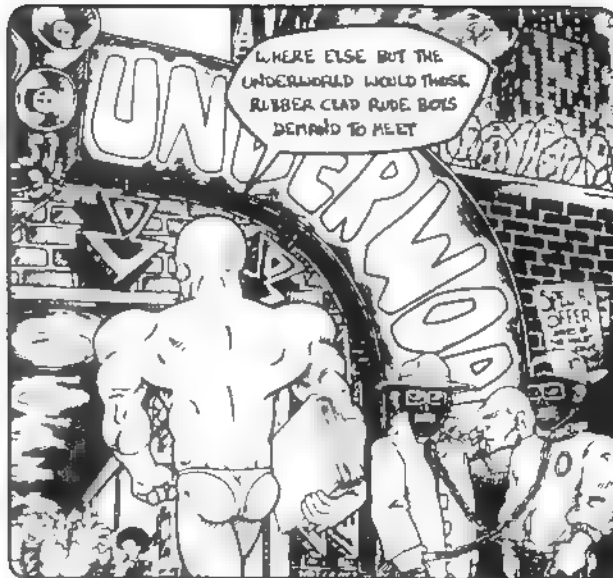


" I ONLY HOPE THEY
AREN'T MISTREATING
THE LITTLE GUY..."

OF COURSE YOU REALIZE THAT WHEN
HE DROPS OFF THE LEDGERS WE WILL
RELEASE NEITHER OF YOU. NO, YOU WILL
BOTH SPEND THE REST OF YOUR
LIVES IN OUR LOVE DUNGEON,
BOUND TO PLEASE OUR MASTER
DEMANDS THIS!!!!

SPANK!

OPH!
OPH!
OPH!
OPH!
OPH!
OPH!
OPH!
OPH!
OPH!
OPH!



SHE'S A VERY SPECIAL GIRL FROM HER HEAD DOWN TO HER TOENAILS—THAT GIRL IS REALLY WILD! NOW! SHE'S THE KINDA GIRL YOU READ ABOUT! SHE'S ALRIGHT! SHE'S A...

SUPERFREAK*!

(SHE'S SUPER-FREAKY!)

©1993
CHEELA
R. SMITH

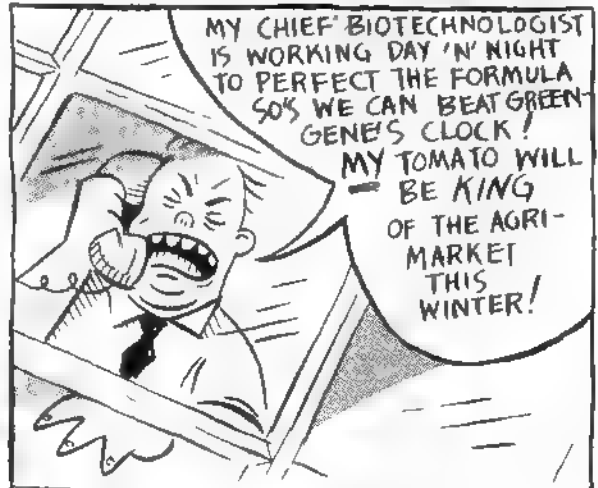
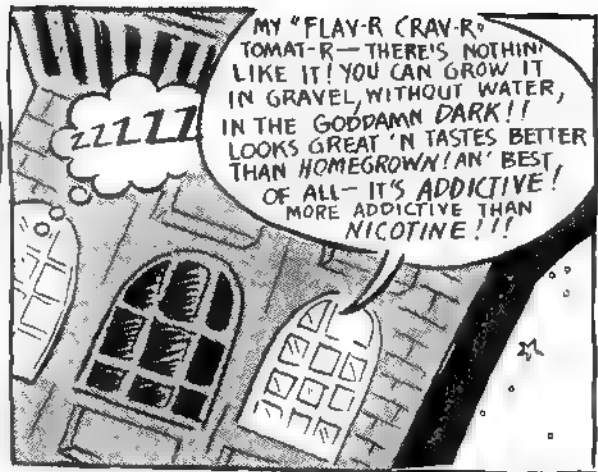


OAKLAND, CALIF. - APRIL 13, 1993...

GOTTA PERFECT THIS FORMULA BY MIDNIGHT! GET THAT MILLION DOLLAR BONUS FROM MR. FRANKENCHOW SO I CAN PAY FOR THAT SEX CHANGE OPERATION LIKE I PROMISED MY BABY SISTER AN' I REALLY WANT A HARLEY.

=YAWN! SO SLEEPY! BEEN GOIN' FOR THREE DAYS 'N NIGHTS NOW, NON-STOP... GOTTA STAY AWAKE 'N GET THAT MILLION!

LOOK - I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES - MONEY! MURDER! IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME - WE GOTTA GET MY TOMATO ON THE MARKET FIRST!



6 WEEKS
LATER...

DOCTOR...
WILL MY
EYES BE
OKAY?
AM I
BLIND?

WE WON'T
KNOW MISS
MALONE
TIL WE
GET THESE
BANDAGES
OFF.



I CAN
SEE!

YOU KNOW, MISS MALONE—THIS
TRAGIC INCIDENT WOULD NEVER
HAVE OCCURRED IF YOUR
CAREER WERE WIFE 'N' MOTHER-
HOOD AS NATURE INTENDED
YOU'RE A HOMO-SEXUAL
ARE YOU NOT, MISS
MALONE?



YOU'VE PISSED
ME. OFF!!!

I KNOW A VERY GIFTED THERAPIST
WHO CAN HELP YOU RECOVER
FROM YOUR UNFORTUNATE

LIFESTYLE
>GULP<
NOW NOW
MISS
MALONE

WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING?!



© A MONTH PASSES...

...A RASH OF SUDDEN RE-ORIENTATIONS TO HOMOSEXUALITY HAS SWEEPED THE BAY AREA IN THIS PAST MONTH! IN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBERS PERSONS PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS HETEROSEXUAL ARE COMING OUT IN DROVES. SOME ARE ATTRIBUTING THIS PHENOMENON TO THE EFFORTS OF A MYSTERIOUS INDIVIDUAL KNOWN AS THE "SUPERFREAK"! "SHE TURNS PEOPLE GAY"—SAID ONE ECSTATIC WITNESS WHO WAS UNABLE TO DESCRIBE HER. "WHAT- EVER SHE DID LEFT ME KINDA DAZED... I CAN'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT HER."

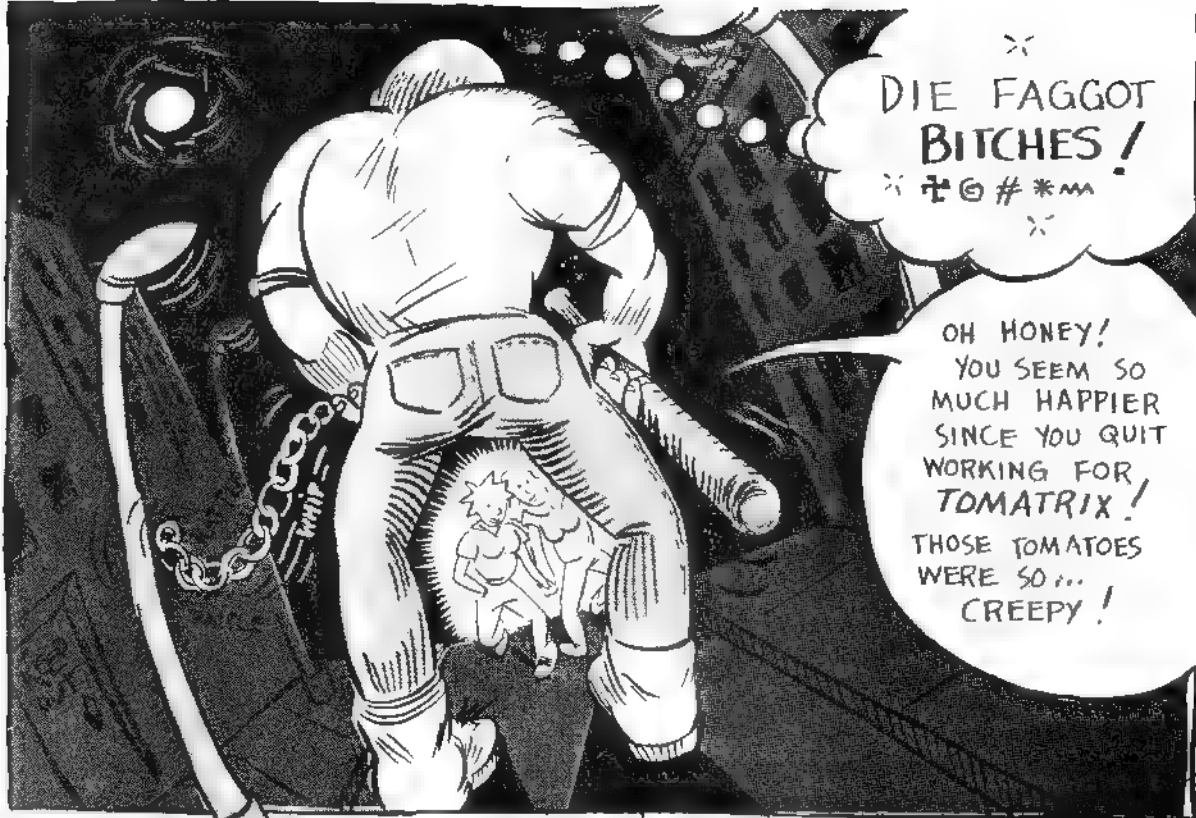
I NEED
A
MAN!!



Hic Hic Hic

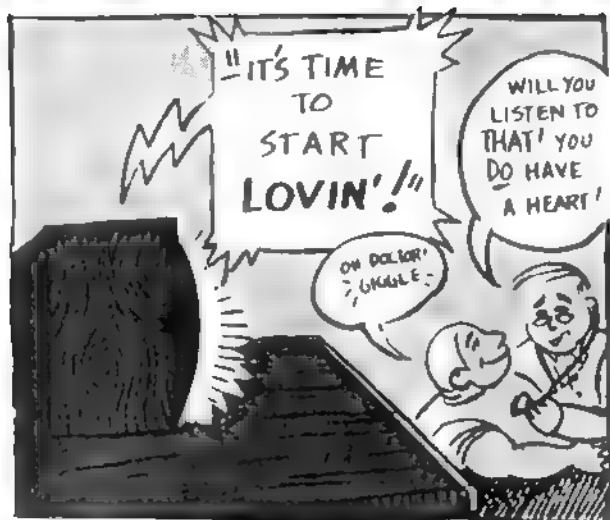
>GRRRR<
TIME TO GO
OUT 'N KICK
SOME FAG-
ASS!







...IN A LETTER TO THE S.F. CHRONICLE TODAY THE MYSTERIOUS SUPERFREAK STATED: "THROUGH BIOGENETIC ENGINEERING, I HAVE TRANSFORMED DOZENS OF ORDINARY GAYS 'N LESBIANS INTO SUPERFREAKS LIKE MYSELF! AND TO ALL YOU HATE-MONGERING HOMOPHOBES OUT THERE WE SAY TO YOU —



"IT'S TIME TO START LOVIN'!"

WILL YOU LISTEN TO THAT! YOU DO HAVE A HEART!

OH DOCTOR! I'VE GONE!



IN OTHER NEWS TONITE—STOCKS IN TOMATRIX ENTERPRISES HAVE TAKEN A NOSEDIVE!

MISS SMOOCH! MISS SMOOCH! MISS SMOOCH!



EARLIER THIS WEEK THEIR SOLE PRODUCT - THE FLAV'R CRAY'R TOMATO - BOMBED MISERABLY IN THE MARKET SAID ONE CONSUMER - "THAT TOMATO IS JUST SO... CREEPY!" THEIR TOP C.E.O., IB FRANKENHOW WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT

PESS! WANNA PLAY DOCTOR?



PEACE, BAY AREA! LOOKS LIKE MY WORK HERE IS DONE FOR NOW. NEXT STOP—COLORADO!

HEY, CEREBRAL GIRL, WE GOTTA CALL THIS SOMETHING SO WE CAN GET STARTED!

ALRIGHT, HOW ABOUT "LOVE AND DEATH IN THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM"?

UH, YEAH, THAT'S CATCHY, AND THE HARVARD BABES WOULD LOVE IT, BUT WE ONLY GOT SO MUCH SPACE! HOW 'BOUT: BLOOD, SEX, AND COMICS!

I CAN SEE, AS THE AUTHOR, THAT I MUST EXERCISE "FINAL SAY" (LOOSE IT UP IN YOUR CONTRACTS)... THIS STORY IS CALLED:

RABEQUEST

★ STARRING GRAVITY BABE AND CEREBRAL GIRL!

OH, YEAH, REAL CATCHY!

C.G., OUR AUDIENCE MAY BE WONDERING WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ANTI-STEREOTYPE SUPER-HERO GALS!

WELL, BASICALLY, ONE DOESN'T GET MANY DATES, NOT THAT YOU'VE NOTICED! WHO WAS THAT IN YOUR SUPER-HOVER CAR ABOVE FROSTY-FRY THIS EVENING LAST?

ANTIQUE COMICS

WHY, EGGHEAD, DEAR, ONE MIGHT THINK YOU WERE JEALOUS!

RIDICULOUS! WE'RE JUST BUDDIES - AHHEM - REMEMBER?

OH, YES, THE CODE

YES, THE CODE... THE CODE STATES THAT: EVEN THOUGH WE'RE CLOSE FRIENDS, AND LOVE EACH OTHER'S MINDS...

WE SHALL ALWAYS BE FOREVER CHASTE...

...AND ARE TOGETHER - ALL THE TIME IN SKIN-TIGHT OR REVEALING CLOTHES

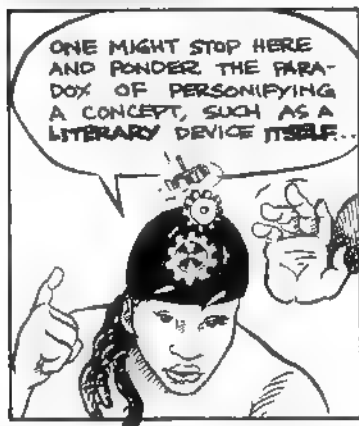
...SO HELP US, CARL JUNG!

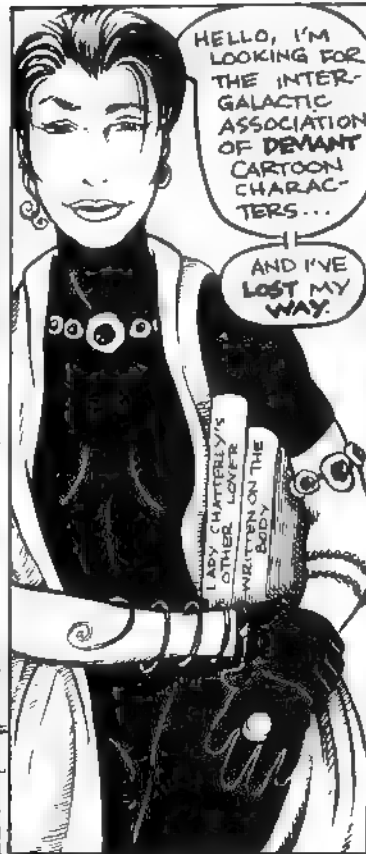
BUT, BRAIN GIRL, HOW CAN ONE RESIST THE TEMPTATIONS?!

WHAT, LIKE TANK GIRL? WE DON'T ASSOCIATE WITH RUDE BRITISH-BOY COMICS - IT'S AGAINST OUR PRINCIPLES!

WHO'S PRINCIPLES? I SAW WHAT WAS UNDER THE TOWELS ON THE BACK OF YOUR TOILET!

NO TANK GIRL, I'LL TELL YOU THAT!!





SENTINEL

in A SPEEDY RETURN

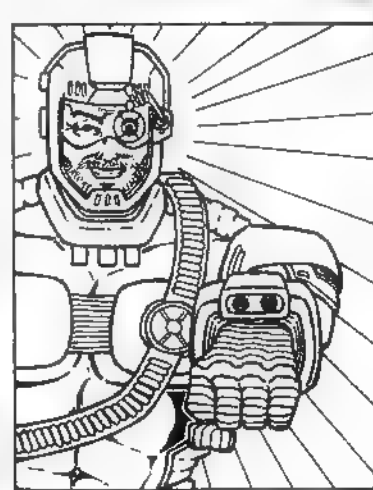
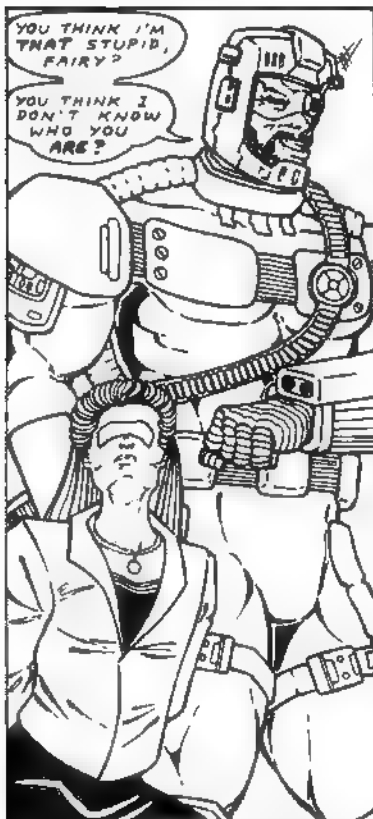
Written by ANDY MANGELS

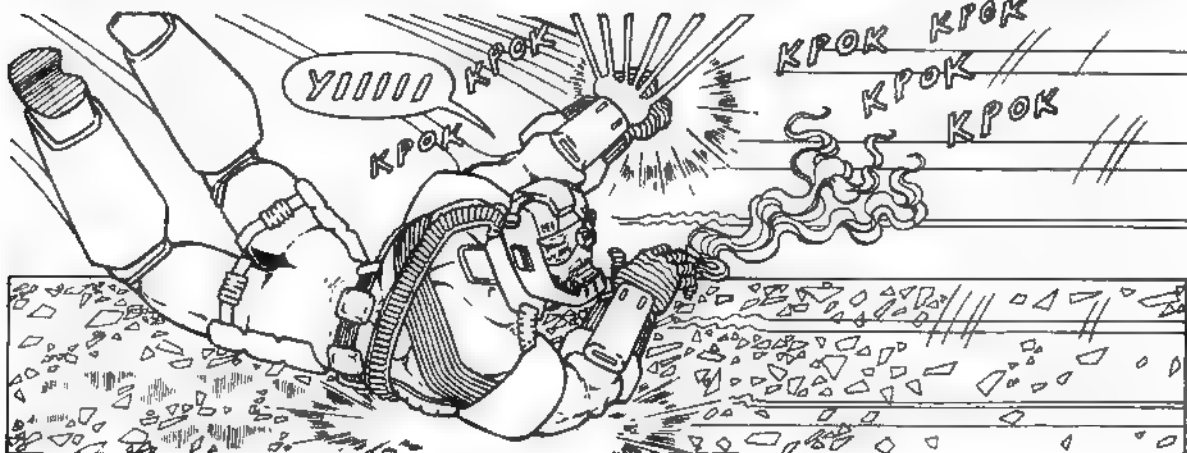
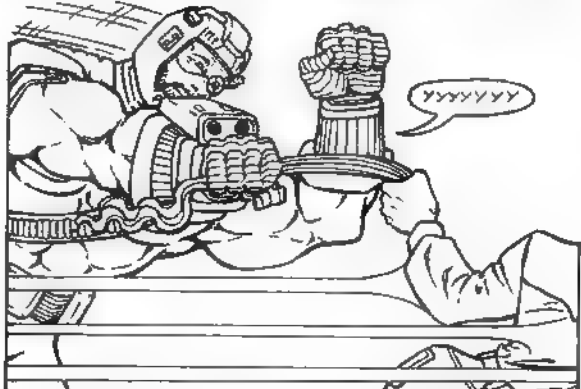
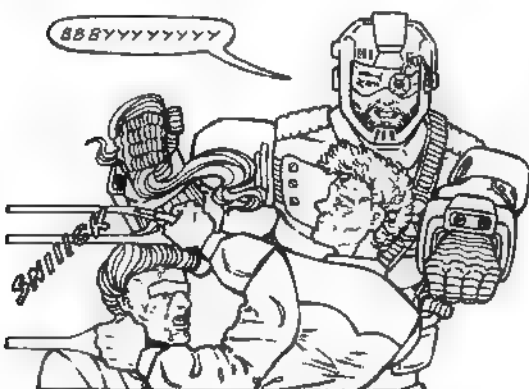
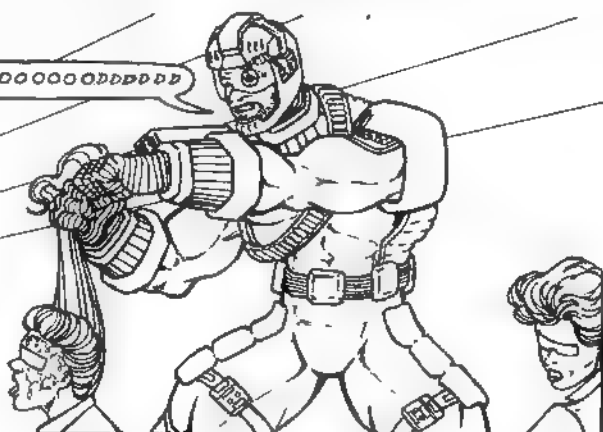
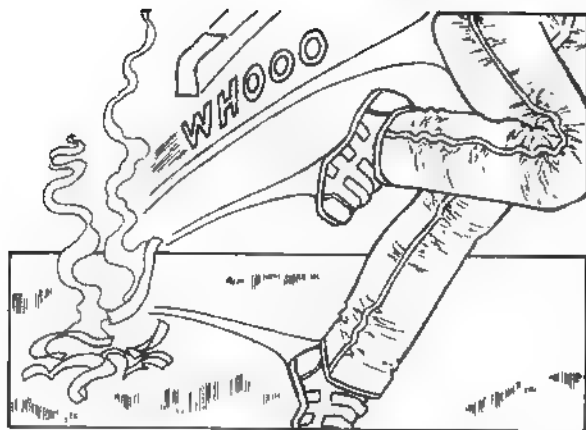
Illustrated by J.A. FLUDD

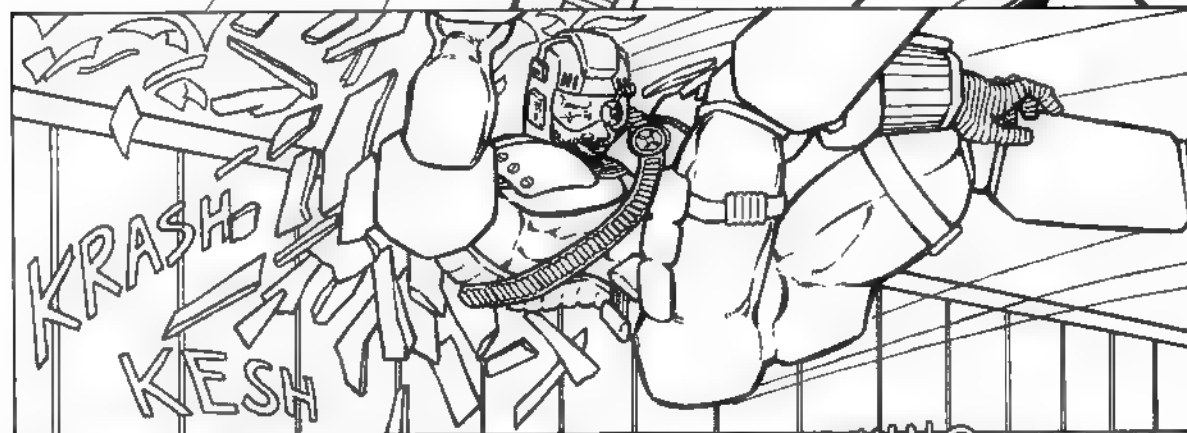
SENTINEL costumes by GREG PHILLIPS













THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

UHHH, ARE YOU OKAY?

YEAH. I RUN ABOUT A HUNDRED MILES EVERY MORNING. THIS IS JUST THE ADRENALIN FROM FACING THE BAD GUYS AGAIN.



JUST A SEC.

AGAIN? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



HERE. COULDN'T STAND TO GET RID OF IT...

...EVEN AFTER WHAT THEY DID TO ME.



FOXTROT?

YOU'RE THE ONE THEY KICKED OUT BACK IN THE EARLY FIFTIES?



YEAH. OFFICIALLY IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS A SECURITY RISK. UNOFFICIALLY, IT WAS BECAUSE I WOULDN'T SLEEP WITH COMMANDER PERCE. HE SPREAD THE WORD THAT I WAS A DYKE, AND IN THOSE DAYS...

...WELL, LET'S JUST SAY I WASN'T WELCOME AT THE CLUBHOUSE ANY MORE.



HEY, THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW. COME ON, LET'S REINTRODUCE FOXTROT TO THE PRESS.

THINGS AREN'T THAT DIFFERENT, FLY BOY. 'SIDES, THE TIGHTS DON'T FIT ANY MORE. MY WIFE COOKS TOO WELL.



I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, THOUGH. I KNOW YOUR SECRET.

FWWWHHOOOOO

IF I WERE A

SUPERHERO(ine)

©1993
Roberta
Gregory

ME!!?
I don't even
READ
Superhero COMICS!

I don't WANNA
Fight an' stuff...
I'm a WIMP!
I just want to
DRAW COMICS

NO!!!! Not
SPANDEX®!
PLEASE..
NO SPANDEX.®

All right..
All right..
..but I get to
choose my own
POWERS-



OKAY.. FIRST thing I
want... INVULNERABILITY!
Goes without SAYING nowadays...

But, I can't be SELFISH...
I need some OTHER
Power so I can best
SERVE my fellow persons..

Good thing I'm
INVULNERABLE...



SUPER STRENGTH?

Darn!

X-RAY VISION?

Always wondered if this would look like those comic book ads

SUPER-SPEED?

oops!

ZOW!

HEAT VISION

ELASTICNESS

AHH...

SKETCH SCRATCH

INVISIBILITY?

Giggle giggle?

GENTLEMEN

NOPE! I would choose

ZAP!

POP!

CRACKLE!

EMPATHY VISION!

Then, I would take about three years and travel ALL over the WORLD... (No problem here! I like travelling, and the invulnerability would sure come in handy...) I'd be sure to make LOTS of eye contact!



And so
all over
the
world:

Huhh
What if I was
GAY? I wouldn't
deserve to be beaten
up by somebody just
cause they feel
THREATENED by me

Hey, how would I
like it if someone
treated me badly just
because they didn't like
what COLOR I was?

I guess if I was raised
with a MAJORITY attitude
and to look upon other
races to a THREAT to my
privileges I'd act the
same way....

Four bastards
feel threatened
by my existence...
Thank GOD I'm
getting away!!

Wait a minute.. how
would I like it if
someone robbed me of
my hard-earned money?

I guess I wouldn't want
somebody else to shoot ME
for being a different religion...

That's right... I never
liked it when Mom
beat the shit out
of ME..

Hey, these people
elected me
because they
wanted to make
some POSITIVE
CHANGES in their
lives... I wouldn't
want to be let
down...

I wouldn't want someone
to do that to ME..

(ANY
ELECTED
OFFICIAL)

Hey, this
superhero
business is a
piece o' CAKE!

Wow,
Travelling sure
is TIRING.....
It's nice to be back
HOME again

U.S.
CUSTOMS
→

DECLARE
IT OR
DUMP
IT!

FILL IN ANYONE YOU'D LIKE



GENDER BENDER

Champion of Truth, Justice, and Unisex Underwear
By Kurt Erichsen © 1993



Chris, Team "B" is in trouble!
You've got to cover their story!



Team "B" -- Lois' team! Is she okay?

What has Brain-Storm
done to her?



Brain-Storm is holding a hostage
at the *Stonewall Monument*!

He's demanding \$5 million and a date
with *Tom Cruise* Now, take your
camera and go.



Gosh! Brain-
Storm has
kidnapped
LOIS --- again!



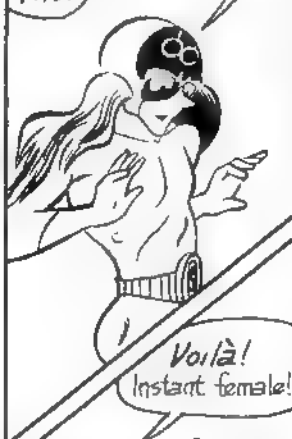
This is a
job for...



...Gender Bender!



Whoops! I forgot the
tits.



Voilà!
Instant female!



SPROING

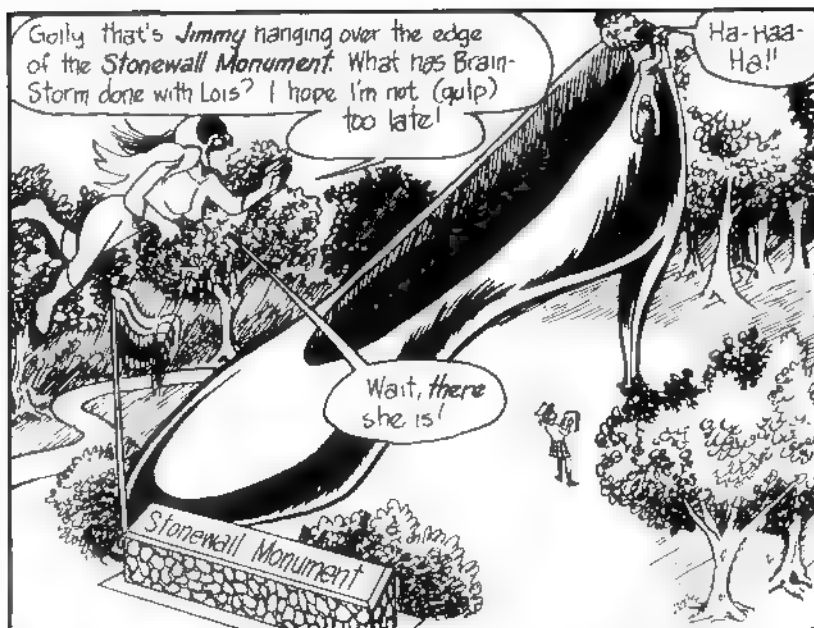
Now I'm ready to
rescue Lois!



I love rescuing Lois. I think she gets kid-
napped by evil geniuses on purpose. I'm glad
Superman is busy rescuing Clark Kent. Lois
is nice to him, but she knows what she likes!



The last time I rescued her was fantastic! Lois
is great in bed, and incredible at 30,000 feet!



THE END! (I can't bear to watch)

THE DARING NEW ADVENTURES OF

BATQUEEN

AND

GUIDO

THE CLONE WONDER

WOW! WHAT A FANTASTIC MOVIE! IF ONLY MY LIFE COULD BE AS EXCITING AS THAT!!

ODEON

BATMAN

ONLY DENY ENTRANCE TO GAYS IN BATMAN COSTUMES...

LATER THAT NIGHT...

RICKY IS SLEEPING PEACEFULLY WHEN SUDDENLY...

WHY, THE FIENO!

GUIDO QUICKLY INTO COSTUME

I JUST WISH
HE'D FIND A
QUICKER WAY TO
INFLATE THOSE
FAKE MUSCLES

HA HA HA!!
RIGHT, BOYS...

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIX THESE CHEMICALS

AND WE'LL ELIMINATE THOSE UNDESIRABLES ONCE AND FOR ALL

DON'T BET ON THAT, HOAXER!!

DAMN! I SNAGGED MY CAPE!

THINK YOURSELF LUCKY YOU DIDN'T PUNCTURE YOUR MUSCLES!!

CURSES!

GET THEM, BOYS!!



QUEER SIR . . .

The letter bag has been really small lately. Let's get the letters coming in, to spur on the **Gay Comics** cartoonists!

Dear Andy,

Did I mail a letter to you about **Gay Comics #15** already? <No> It is a shame when someone loses their mind.

It's hard to write this letter because I liked everything and I don't want to sound like a gushing fanboy. The only thing I would really like to see is for **Gay Comics** to go monthly. O.K., so I know that this is impossible at this time.

I've also been rereading **Gay Comix Special #1**, featuring Tim Barela's **Leonard & Larry**. I like how his characters grow and change over the years. It would be real nice if all of his strips could be collected into one big volume.

I look forward to future issues of **Gay Comics**.

Robert Ploski
Somerville, MA

Good news for **Leonard & Larry** fans. Tim's contracted with Palliard Press to publish a huge paperback collection of most of the **L&L** work he's done over the last decade! We'll let you know when it's coming. Also, keep an eye on future issues when Tim starts an all-new series for **Gay Comics**! Yowza! — Andy.

Dear Mr. Mangels,

I noticed with interest the advertisement in **Spawn #10** that you will be writing parts of **Gay Comics #17** and **#18**. I commend you for this decision. In a society governed by homophobia, people with power have typically shunned homosexuals. I mean, read the first article in **Wizard #22**, page 23, top left: "... having his heroes fight racism, AIDS, and sexual deviance." What is the exact definition of "sexual deviance," and who wrote that blurb? I hope that person realizes being gay is not "sexual deviance."

I once again commend you for writing a comic that serves as a public service. I will definitely purchase **Gay Comics** for a long time to come.

Jason Jordan
Seattle, WA

P.S. I am only 14 years old. I hope that others in my peer group can try to keep an open mind. Only then will we live in a country of freedom.

Boy, when I got this letter, forwarded my way by **Wizard**, I was floating for hours! For those who didn't see it, Todd McFarlane donated the inside back cover of **Spawn #10** (one of the top five best-selling comics) as a full-page ad for **Gay Comics #17-19**. Todd received a lot of flack for the move, including stores -- and even a distributor -- that asked if the comics were returnable! Todd stands behind his decision to run the ad, a stand I think is deserving of a lot of respect.

Wizard's editor says that the statement about "sexual deviance" was from a press release, and conceded that it probably should have been cut out.

Jason, I welcome you as a new reader. Hopefully mainstream creators such as George Pérez and others coming up will bring in more readers who never thought about how cool **Gay Comics** could be. You know, with teens as smart as you, Jason, I do have hope for the future. — Andy.

I also got a letter too long to print in one page from Whitt Pond. Many thanks for your incisive comments. In answer to your questions: **#1** — *Why doesn't The Advocate print regular comics anymore?* Because they don't think comics are important. Maybe that's a part of the reason their sales are dropping so badly. **#2** — *What's happened to Jerry Mills' "Poppers"?* As you may have read last issue, Jerry passed away in January. There are discussions about doing a complete "Poppers" collection. **#3** — *I hope Rhonda Dickson gets all of her Lesbian Survival Hints together in a book someday.* She has. Both *The Lesbian Survival Manual* and *Stay Tooned*, are available from Naiad Press, at better bookshops.

We'll see you next issue, with more comics, more fun, and (if you write in) more letters!

CORRECTION

In **Gay Comics #17's** letters page, I implied that Patrick Marcel would be doing some work for us later this year. I spoke too soon. Patrick will not be doing work for **Gay Comics** in the near future.

Send **Gay Comics** submissions and letters to:
Andy Mangels - Editor, Gay Comics
PO Box 3226, Portland, OR, 97208-3226
Submissions responses may take a long time.
Always include a phone number and a SASE.

Back Issues **#6, 9-19, Special #1**
\$3.50 each (US) \$4.00 each (Can)
\$5.50 each (overseas)

Order From: **Gay Comics, 395 9th St,**
San Francisco, CA 94103-3831

Andy Mangels - editor Gay Comics
PO Box 3226, Portland, OR 97208-3226

CONTRIBUTORS

George Pérez is one of the most respected artists in the comic business, having worked on virtually every mainstream superhero comic over his long career: *Avengers*, *Fantastic Four*, *Justice League*, *New Teen Titans*, *Crisis On Infinite Earths*, and more. He wrote and/or drew *Wonder Woman* from 1987-92, introducing the first openly lesbian and gay characters in the book's 50 year history! He's now working on *Sachs and Violens* for Epic.

J. A. Fludd is a New York artist whose art on *Sentinel* is getting some notice. He's written for the *Fantaco Chronicles*, and he belongs to the Gaylactic Network, the international organization of gay and lesbian science fiction fans. His previous *Sentinel* stories were in *Gay Comics* #16-18.

Joan Hilty lives in New York, but grew up in California on a steady diet of *Tintin*, *Nancy Drew*, and comics. Her super-heroine crushes include Marvel's Rogue and She-Hulk, and DC's Green Flame/Ice. Her work has appeared in *The Advocate*, *Oh, GirlJock*, *Real Girl*, and *Wimmen's Comics*, and she is developing a strip for self-syndication. She's been in *Gay Comix/Comics* #13, 14, 18.

Robert Kirby draws the self-syndicated comic strip *Curbside*, and edits a queer comic zine called *Strange Looking Exile* (\$4.25, Giant Ass Publishing, PO Box 214, New Haven, CT 06502). His cartoons have recently appeared in *The Advocate* and *Real Girl*. He had a story in *Gay Comics* #17.

Jennifer Camper draws the bi-weekly feature "Camper," a self-syndicated cartoon which runs in various publications. Her work is also available on postcards, available at better bookstores. For ordering info, send a SASE to Camper, 151 1st Ave. #54, NY, NY 10003. She created IronWoman for *Gay Comix* #8, and has other stories in *Gay Comix/Comics* #2, 4, 5, 7, 11-15, 17.

Malachy Covey and **Sean Doran** are both newcomers to the pages of *Gay Comics*, all the way from Ireland! They're the co-creators of, *Major Power & Spunky*, which has appeared in Ireland's *DVB* and *Zipper*.

Cheela Smith has specialized in females since 1957. Her work has appeared in *Real Girl*, *Wimmen's Comics*, and *GirlJock*. She is one of the world's leading authorities on Pig Latin and Veeblefetzers. She has had stories in *Gay Comix/Comics* #3, 17.

Howard Stangroom is the editor of our British counterpart, *Buddies*. He ekes out his living as a comic shop wage slave. His work has appeared in *Avalon*, *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Him*, *Meatmen*, *Masters of the Universe*, *She-Ra*, and the kinky *My Little Pony*. He has done stories in *Gay Comix/Comics* #11, 12, 14, 17.

Steven Lowther has been seen in many British publications, from *Avalon*, *Buddies*, *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Trident*, *Him*, and *Meatmen*. He's also appeared in *Gay Comix/Comics* #11, 12, 14, 17.

Andy Mangels edits *Gay Comics* (since issue #14), and writes *Friday the 13th* (Topps) and *ElfQuest: Blood Of Ten Chiefs* (WARP) with #2. He has upcoming stories in *ElfQuest Summer Special '93* (WARP), *The Batman Adventures* and *Justice League Quarterly* (DC). His *Quantum Leap* #9 (Innovation), set during the week of the Stonewall riots, created a national stir. He recently wrote the *Gay Comics* entry (tracing the history of gay and lesbian cartoonists and comics) for Collier Books' upcoming *Concise Encyclopedia of Homosexuality*. He's written stories in *Gay Comix/Comics* #14, 16-18.

Julie Franki is a native Texan currently living in Kansas City. When she's not drawing her own comics, she enjoys reading other people's, especially *Dykes To Watch Out For*, *Desert Peach*, *Love & Rockets*, and *Naughty Bits*. She has had stories in *Gay Comics* #17, 18.

Roberta Gregory wrote and drew the first openly lesbian comic, *Dynamite Damsels*, in 1976. Since then, she's done *Winging It* and *Artistic Licentiousness*, as well as her tremendously good *Naughty Bits* series. For more information and a free catalog, send a SASE to her at PO Box 27438. Roberta holds the distinction of having appeared in more issues of this series than any other cartoonist. Look for her in *Gay Comix/Comics* #1-7, 10-17.

Kurt Erichsen is a familiar name to long-time readers. An Ohio resident, he's famous for his *Murphy's Manor* and *Sparkle Spinsters* strips. He's done work for *Starlog*, *Science Fiction Review*, *Comics Feature*, *Under The Cover/Between The Sheets*, and most of the *Meatmen* books. He's had stories in *Gay Comix* #1, 3, 4, 6-8, 11, 12.

CEREBRAL AND GRAVITY girl BABE

HEY,
CEREBRAL GIRL,
YOUR NAME SOUNDS
LIKE YOU WERE
INVENTED BY A SUPER-
GEEKY SOCIAL-REJECT
FULL OF TESTOSTERONE!



LOVE AS THE BRIDE TO LIVE!

O-YEAH

J. Franki
© 93

GRAVITY BABE,
I'D RATHER SAVE
THE UNIVERSE IN MY
QUEST FOR TRUTH THAN
ARGUE SEMANTICS!
AND LOOK WHO'S
TALKING!





Sir Real's

UNDERGROUND COMIX CLASSIX

Gay Comics #20

Published Late Summer 1993

1st edition

Bob Ross

\$2.95

44 pages

Print run of 7 copies

7" x 10"

ISBN:

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- 2 - From The Editor
- 3 - Contents
- 4 - Wild Night: Origin Story of Immola
- 9 - Men In Tights
- 12 - Iron Woman: Adventures In Employment
- 15 - Major Power & Spunky
- 21 - Super Freak
- 26 - Babequest
- 29 - Sentinel: A Speedy Return
- 35 - If I Were A SuperHero(ine)
- 38 - Gender Bender
- 40 - Bat Queen and Guldo, The Clone Wonder
- 42 - Queer Sir...
- 43 - Contributors
- 44 - Gravitly Babe and Cerebral Girl

Artists:

- J.A. Fludd - 1+, 29-34(a)
 George Perez - 1+
 Andy Mangels - 2(l), 29-34(s)
 Joan Hilty - 4-8
 Robert Kirby - 9-11
 Jennifer Camper - 12-14
 Malachy Covey - 15-20+
 Sean Doran - 15-20+
 Cheela Smith - 21-25
 Julie Franki - 26-28, 44
 Roberta Gregory - 35-37
 Kurt Ericksen - 38-39
 Howard Stangroom - 40-41+
 Stephen Lowther - 40-41+

Comments:

Super hero theme.